GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:464
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2005
PROGRESS OF VALLARPADAM INTERNATIONAL TRANSHIPMENT CONTAINER AT COCHIN
Thomas Shri P.C.

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the progress of construction of Vallarpadam International Transhipment Container Terminal at Cochin is as per schedule;

(b) if so, the details of progress of work made so far and works remaining to be done including the time period thereof; and

(c) the action taken to attract international domestic container traffic to this terminal?

Answer

MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) to (c) In terms of the Licence Agreement (Agreement) signed by Cochin Port Trust (Licensor) with M/s. India Gateway Terminal Private Limited (Licensee), a subsidiary of M/s. Dubai Ports International, Dubai, UAE (DPI) on 31.1.2005, the Licensee has commenced commercial operations at the existing Rajiv Gandhi Container Terminal (RGCT) as per schedule on 1.4.2005. For Phase I of International Container Transhipment Terminal (ICTT), the Agreement, in essence, envisages commencement of construction works within 2 years, commercial operations within 4 years from the date on which commercial operations were commenced by the Licensee in RGCT, i.e. by 31.3.2007 and 31.3.2009 respectively.

However, commencement of construction works for Phase I of ICTT by the Licensee is contingent on fulfillment by the Licensor of 'Conditions Precedent' set out in the Agreement which also lay down their inter-se linkages. The 'Conditions Precedent' set out are namely, to obtain environmental clearance in respect of construction works for Phase I of ICTT, having the Project Site at Vallarpadam/Puthuvypeen declared as part of Special Economic Zone (SEZ) and having the construction of Rail Connectivity and National Highway Connectivity commenced by the appropriate authority. Commencement of commercial operations for Phase I of ICTT by the Licensee is contingent on provision of Rail Connectivity and Road Connectivity at the ICTT site. In terms of the time-frames envisaged for completion of these activities under the Agreement, commercial operations are planned to commence by 1.4.2009.

As per the Agreement, the Licensee, inter-alia, is required to provide project facilities capable of handling main line vessels and endeavour to handle them from the second year onwards of the Date of Commercial Operation in respect of RGCT, i.e, from 1.4.2006. The Licensee has already installed two mobile harbour cranes and four yard gantry cranes for handling containers at RGCT. The Licensor has awarded a contract for deepening the channels leading to RGCT to enable 12.5 metre draft vessels to call at the port. These steps, coupled with the planned enhancement of the draft in the common user approach channel and basins for the ICTT will help in attracting international/domestic container traffic.